
Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Women Deliver 2019: Indigenous Women, Peace, Security & Inclusion

Moderated by Ms. Lynne Groulx, CEO of the Native Women's Association of Canada.

Vancouver, CANADA



Activity Report prepared by the Strategic Partnerships Liaison, Ms. Gwen Madiba



**Native Women's
Association of Canada**



**L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada**

THE NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

would like to sincerely thank our partners at Employment and Social Development Canada and Women Deliver.



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WOMEN DELIVER

About Women Deliver

Women Deliver is a leading global advocate that champions gender equality and the health and rights of girls and women. Our advocacy drives investment – political and financial – in the lives of girls and women worldwide. We harness evidence and unite diverse voices to spark commitment to gender equality. And we get results. Anchored in sexual and reproductive health, we advocate for the rights of girls and women across every aspect of their lives. We know that investing in girls and women will deliver progress for all.

The Women Deliver conferences started in 2007, and the upcoming one will be the 5th. It has grown to be the world's largest and most influential conference on gender equality and the health, rights, and wellbeing of girls and women. The conference in Vancouver will gather 6 - 7,000 participants - Heads of States and UN agencies, ministers, parliamentarians, Nobel Laureates, royals, private sector and civil society executives, young people, experts, academics, advocates, activists, and journalists from more than 150 countries.



Context of their proposal

Why they asked our CEO and NWAC to participate

A key element of the conference is the concurrent session program. Approximately 100 concurrent sessions, spread over the three days, are the core place to exchange knowledge, generate discussions, and seriously hone in on solutions, innovation, and impact on the respective issues. To share the workload and achieve well-rounded sessions, we have grouped together thematically related sessions in clusters and are identifying organizers to co-develop these clusters in partnership.

Given NWAC's expertise, they asked a meeting to discuss the Native Women's Association of Canada's participation to help curate concurrent sessions on indigenous issues.

On April 5th 2019, the CEO of the Native Women's Association of Canada, Ms. Lynne Groulx met with the Managing Director of Women Deliver Canada, Evelyne Guindon in Ottawa at our office.



Indigenous Women: Peace, Security and Inclusion.

Background

Ms. Lynne Groulx, CEO of the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) was contacted and invited by Women Deliver to give a keynote speech on *Indigenous Women: Peace, Security and Inclusion* and moderate the panel.

The title was proposed to the Women Deliver team by NWAC's Strategic Partnerships Liaison, Ms. Gwen Madiba. It was inspired by the efforts of European Union Ambassador Mara Marinaki to ensure that no women are left behind and that the voices of all women around the world, including Indigenous Women, Girls and

Gender diverse people in Canada are heard and included in the United Nations Resolution 1325 and all decision making bodies that concern them.

The panel was very successful and the room was at capacity. Participants who were unable to enter the room were invited to visualize the panel online.

The panel sparked an important conversation on the challenges faced by Indigenous women around the world. It curated a learning space while inspiring the public to propose a series of concrete solutions to some of the problems faced by Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people in Canada and abroad.



Indigenous Women: Peace, Security and Inclusion.

Background

Ending violence against Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people requires raising awareness, education, policy change and reconciliation. Globally, Indigenous women and girls are drawing attention to their status and conditions by amplifying their voices and sharing their perspectives on prevention and responses.

This panel will include perspectives from the Canadian National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and other examples for healing and recovery from other parts of the world

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THE PANEL

Speakers

- Lynne Groulx, CEO, Native Women's Association of Canada
 - Jane Meriwas, Executive Director, Samburu Women Trust
 - Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, Former Chair, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and Medical Doctor
 - Marion Buller, Chief Commissioner, National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit people.
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Lynne Groulx

CEO of the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)

As the Executive Director for the Native Women's Association of Canada, Lynne Groulx advocates for the rights of Indigenous women. Her passion and expertise on Indigenous rights, gender equality, human rights and economic development make Lynne one of our country's strongest activists. Through her intensive dedication to empower women of all Nations, Lynne won the Women's Executive Network's 2018 Canada's Most Powerful Women award. Lynne's academic background equipped her to push for decolonization in all aspects of society. She focused in civil and common law, with studies in corporate law, social justice, and Indigenous legal traditions and customary laws.

During her past two years at NWAC, Lynne furthered the organization's capacity to address its mission "to advocate for and inspire women and families of many Indigenous nations" and defend Indigenous women's human rights. Through effective high-level negotiations with key government agencies, Lynne is bringing Indigenous women's issues to the national and international stage.

Most notably, Lynne has taken the lead on developing a social and cultural innovation NWAC Resiliency Centre. This culturally appropriate, Indigenous hub will promote healing and feature workshop spaces and a boutique to provide employment and revenues to over 200 Indigenous women entrepreneurs in Canada.

Lynne Groulx is a paradigm of resolute leadership expressing the full capacity of her knowledge to ensure justice and equality for all Indigenous women. Through her visionary efforts, she has embossed the unmistakable value and power of the many Nations of Indigenous women to further the road to reconciliation and decolonization.



Jane Meriwas

Samburu Women Trust

An indigenous woman, mentor, feminist and women human rights defender with more than 15 years advancing women and girls rights national, regional and international platforms. A graduate with BA in Community Development and undergraduate in Gender Development. Founder of Samburu Women Trust, an Indigenous Women-led hub working locally, Nationally, Regionally and internationally to advance indigenous women and girls collective voice, in policy and influence community perceptions towards women decision making. Winner of 2019 Kenya Red Cross Inclusion Award.

Board member National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Kenya and IPACC East Africa Regional Representatives.



Dr Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine

Former Chair and Member, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples

Currently she is in education degree at University of Ottawa, guest speaker, and independent consultant on Indigenous Issues.

Dr Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, is a Tuareg woman. She is a current member and former chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous. She holds a M.A.S on humanitarian action from Geneva University in Switzerland and a medical doctor degree from University of Tizi-ouzou in Algeria. Dr Wallet Aboubakrine is also member of Tin hinan, a nomadic women organization from the region of Sahel-Sahara in Africa.

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Marion Buller

Chief Commissioner, National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Chief Commissioner Buller is Cree and a member of the Mistawasis First Nation in Saskatchewan. In 1994, Buller was the first Indigenous woman appointed as a Provincial Court Judge in British Columbia. She was instrumental in establishing the First Nations Courts of British Columbia in 2006 and the Aboriginal Family Healing Court in 2016. Chief Commissioner Buller received both her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Victoria.

Prior to being appointed to the Provincial Court, Buller worked in civil and criminal law. She was Commission Counsel for the Cariboo-Chilcotin Justice Inquiry and served as President and Director of the Indigenous Bar Association in Canada, the B.C. Police Commission, the Law Courts Education Society and the Law Foundation of British Columbia. She retired from the Provincial Court on August 31, 2016 in order to lead the National Inquiry.



CEO, Lynne Groulx's intervention on Indigenous Women: Peace, Security and Inclusion

Speech of the CEO

Hello, bonjour, kwey kwey.

My name is Lynne Groulx, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Native Women's Association of Canada.

I am a proud Métis woman and I use she/her pronouns.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations whose traditional and unceded territory we are gathered on today.

I am honoured to be amongst global leaders to moderate this panel.

· This platform will amplify the voices and share the perspectives of Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people worldwide to help advance the discussion on peace, security and inclusion and to ultimately achieve substantive equality.

This week is a historic week for Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people in Canada.

The release of the Final Report from the National Inquiry Into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls exposed realities we have known for far too long.

The stories shared throughout the report tell thousands of acts of genocide against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people that persists to this day.

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Canada committed genocide.

Here at this conference, the Prime Minister Trudeau admitted the Inquiry's findings amount to genocide and this is a very important step in the process of reconciliation. We can't fix what we don't acknowledge.

We now have a report of over 1000 pages, detailing how Indigenous women experience structural, institutional, intersecting and aggravated forms of violence at alarming rates.

The Organization of American States has now formally proposed the immediate creation of an interdisciplinary Group of Independent experts to clarify the accusations and denunciations of genocide.

Well, no more.

This is a pivotal time for Indigenous rights. For human rights. For Indigenous rights are human rights.

From the grassroots, to the federal government, to international bodies, people are listening to the stories of survivors, their families, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and experts.

The world is watching to see how Canada listens. How Canada implements change. How Canada will implement the 231 Calls for Justice the Inquiry made in their final report.

The Inquiry declared the Calls for Justice legal imperatives as opposed to recommendations; ending discrimination and violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people is not an option.

This is a historical moment in time– an opportunity for a new beginning.

Indigenous women advocates must persistently apply pressure to ensure these Calls to Justice are implemented and the genocide against our women ends now.

Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples requires actions, not just words. There must be concrete action behind those words. Indigenous women's voices are not silent – they are loud and they are resilient.

And our voices matter more than ever. Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people must lead the implementation of the Calls for Justice and the drastic changes Canada needs to make.

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We are the experts of our lived experiences. Indigenous women are the heart of our families and communities. Canada's genocide cannot end without us. Women must be at decision-making tables and at the heart of peace and security through inclusion and leadership.

This brings me to this panel. Being a part of the Women Deliver Conference is an opportunity for us to immediately discuss how to collectively move forward.

We must form international allies to achieve the peace, security and inclusion for all Indigenous women. We have been waiting for 500 years.

We are here today because we believe in gender equality, and the rights of all women and girls.

We are here today, because we know its time for change. That we are not just a part of that change. We are the leaders.

The voices of Indigenous women in peace and security discussions cannot be denied any longer.

· International tools such as the UN Resolution 1325, the CEDAW General Recommendation No. 30 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples support the need to empower women and girls roles in peace and security.

In 2000, the UN Security Council landmark Resolution 1325 recognized the different impacts of armed conflict on women and girls. It linked women's experiences in conflict to international peace and security.

It was further developed after the CEDAW Committee's General Recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations.

Recommendation No. 30 broadens the scope of Resolution 1325 by recommending all instances of gender-based discrimination be investigated and prosecuted.

While Resolution 1325 applies equally to countries in conflict and those in more peaceful conditions, it is still not accessible to all, including developed countries like Canada.

The National Inquiry provided an overwhelming amount of evidence to support the need for Resolution 1325 and its application in practice within Canada.

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The findings of the Inquiry is solid proof once again that Indigenous women perspectives must be included in the United Nations Women Peace and Security agenda. Resolution 1325 concerns all women in all countries. Our peace, security and inclusion is not an option. It is a fundamental human right. By being here today and being a part of the conversation, we are ensuring the future of our women and our daughters safety and protection.

We need to end the genocide. To listen, to include and to empower Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people. Our women deserve better. They deserve our dedication. They deserve their rights. Our women deserve peace, security and inclusion. Now let's discuss how to make this a reality with our experts.



FEEDBACK FROM THE WOMEN DELIVER TEAM

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Anita Sharma, Senior Director of Millennium Development Goals Initiatives at the United Nations Foundation; currently in charge of communications and advocacy around Every Women Every Child, an effort launched by the UN Secretary-General to improve the health and well-being of women and children in the developing world.

On NWAC's CEO, Lynne Groulx's participation at Women Deliver

"We were so honored to have Lynn participate in our session **INDIGENOUS WOMEN: PEACE, SECURITY AND INCLUSION** at WD2019. Lynn's contributions to this standing-room only session were invaluable."

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From left to right: Lynne Groulx, Marion Buller , Mariam Walett Aboubakrine, Jane Meriwas



Commissioner Marion Buller delivering her remarks.

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CEO, Lynne Groulx delivering her keynote speech



Jane Meriwas & Lynne Groulx debriefing following the panel discussion

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Members of the public joined the panel on stage for a picture



The session was at capacity

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